

15 May, 2013

Dear Members of the Multistate Activities Committee,

On behalf of the members of NE2061(Temp), I thank you for taking the time to review our proposal and provide helpful feedback that will improve our work moving forward. We have worked together to revise our proposal and have hopefully addressed your concerns. If not, though, we would welcome further feedback.

I wanted to provide some input from our group regarding the comments from the Multistate Activities Committee below (our comments are in blue):

1. Need to demonstrate and articulate interdependence better.

We hope that we have addressed this issue in the current proposal and have indicated the interdependence of our group more clearly. Our group represents a multi-disciplinary collaboration between greenhouse engineers, crop physiologists, and an economist. This group is well suited to address the complex resource management issues facing greenhouse growers in the United States.

2. Emphasize Topics 2 & 3 and develop a more integrated approach.

We feel that the current draft represents more integration in all of the topics we have proposed.

3. This is an expensive technology so they need to explain the economic implications to those who will adapt.

Our agricultural economist, Robin Brumfield, will assist us in addressing the economic implications of any newly developed greenhouse technologies. We will incorporate economic information into a website the group will develop that will include budget tools that will allow growers to calculate the potential impacts of any changes in production practices or energy sources.

4. Consolidate objectives. Majority of 'objectives' are methodologies, and appear to be written specifically for participants' activities/contributions to the project.

We have highly consolidated our objectives in the revised proposal; our current objectives are:

- i. To develop up-to-date water and nutrient as well as energy management guidelines for greenhouse crop production and provide stakeholders with educational opportunities that teach proper implementation at their own facilities.
  - ii. To develop these guidelines using research and development involving sensors and control strategies devised by current team members, and through and future collaborations among team members who may become part of this research project.
5. This is a good project that can have significant impact especially in niche urban markets, and can be easily integrated and multidisciplinary to better fit the definition of a multistate research activity. Reach out to faculty working in the urban centers.
  6. It can have the potential to create opportunities and help develop markets for emerging immigrant farmers in the Northeast.

We feel that our current stakeholders include all greenhouse growers and individuals working in controlled environment agriculture. This would include those in rural setting, urban centers, and immigrant farmers. The technologies we develop have the potential to save resources for any individuals working in controlled environments.

Thank you for considering our proposal.

Best Regards,

Stephanie Burnett, NE2061(Temp) Chair